



**MINUTES OF THE
THIRD PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2023**

DATE: October 3, 2023
TIME: 9:06 a.m. to 1:53 p.m.
LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Mark Harrold
Paul Fullam, Vice Chair
Jonathan (Mitch) Colwell
Joe Howdle
Quenton Kusiek
Al Steenbergen
Stephen Laurie
Roger Lebeuf
Angus Potskin, Chair
Shawn Van Velzen
Robert Nygaard

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Jennifer Johnson

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2024 MEETINGS: February 27, May 28

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A round table introduction was held and members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Paul Fullam/ Joe Howdle moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the June 6, 2023 Minutes

Al Steenbergen / Stephen Laurie moved to adopt the minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Roger Lebeuf/ Joe Howdle moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Stephen Laurie / Roger Lebeuf moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Reappointment of Paul Fullam to represent Education and Training

Joe Howdle / Mark Harrold moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Paul Fullam to the Plumbing Sub-Council to represent Education and Training for a term ending January 31, 2027, effective February 1, 2024; CARRIED

2.2. Matrix Review

Mark Harrold / Mitch Colwell moved to recommend no changes to the Plumbing Sub-Council matrix; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Cisterns – Scope of Plumbing Code	Work with AMA on drafting a code change request for the NPC 2025. Sub-council members were to approach their industry groups to gather information on costs, failure rates, and other issues related to potable water cisterns.	Sep 18/18	Dallaire/ Harrold / Potskin	See agenda Item 4.2.

		Members can share the document that is in the portal to assist with gathering this information.			
2.	Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use	PSC members to provide advice to the Administrator on any next steps, such as any additional information or guidance needed by industry. More information may come with implementation of the NPC 2020.	Jun 1/20	All	These guidelines follow CSA B805, considered the best standard for water reuse. Members should continue to consider this and whether it affects their industry segment. If the need arises, a STANDATA or tipsheet could be developed.
3.	Response to Leduc County Submission regarding Permit Regulation	Send a response to Leduc County after PSSC input has been discussed by PSC. Council staff will meet with the Manager of Policy and the Administrator and draft a response to Leduc County.		Karch	A discussion will be held with the proponent, but a formal letter will not be sent.
4.	Whole House Air Admittance Valve	Bring this topic to the next AMOS meeting. Discussions are also happening at the national level.	Sep 13/22	Harrold / Manning	Ongoing item, continue monitoring.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. National Plumbing Code of Canada 2025 Update

The Provincial Plumbing Administrator reported that the opportunity to submit a code change request for incorporation into the 2025 National Plumbing Code has passed. Public consultation on the proposed changes is expected in the future, potentially before the end of this year. Municipal Affairs is working to create a draft 3 column document that shows the changes that are expected to be incorporated into the 2025 edition.

4.2. Cisterns – Scope of the Plumbing Code

Discussion continued from the previous meeting about a potential proposal to add requirements for potable water cisterns into the National Plumbing Code. Highlights included:

- There was general agreement that any proposed change should apply only to cistern certification and installation. Ongoing maintenance of the cistern or the quality of the water that’s put into the cistern would not be part of the proposed change.
- The plumber would be responsible for the cistern because it’s part of the plumbing system and therefore would be captured under the plumbing permit, even though the plumber may not install it.
- There is the potential to expand the private sewage system installer certification to include potable cistern installations.
- CSA B126 is the standard for cistern certification. It is already referenced in the NPC relative to non-potable cisterns and could be referenced relative to potable cisterns as well. Council staff will investigate providing members access to this standard.

[Council Administration]

Members will be polled to determine the date for an additional virtual meeting in November or early December. [Council Administration]

The Chair will send a reminder to members about obtaining input about this topic from their industry segments to be discussed at the next meeting. [Potskin]

4.3. Reference Standards

4.2.1. NSF (National Safety Foundation)

There are efforts to reference NSF 61 in the National Plumbing Code. Portions of plumbing systems, such as bladder tanks, have always used NSF 61, but it was not referenced in the code. There may be value in members' participation on the NSF 61 committee.

4.2.2. ULC

The standard for balloon actuated backflow preventers was updated with minor changes.

4.2.3. CSA

The standard for basement flood prevention was updated with minor changes.

Municipal Affairs employees formerly participated on the following standards and there may be an opportunity for members to participate:

- B128 – water reuse
- B805 – water reuse water safety plan
- B45 – plumbing products
- B125 – plumbing products

4.2.4. IAPMO

No updates available.

4.4. Working Group Reports

4.3.1. NPC 2025

An initial draft 3 column document will be available prior to the end of 2023 for review purposes. After public consultation, another draft 3 column document will be produced, and a final 3 column document based on the published code will be produced.

4.5. AMOS Report

It was reported that AMOS has a new acting executive: Roy Clark is acting president; Steve Goodwin is acting vice president; Leigh Adams is secretary; and Reid Edwards is Treasurer. The next AMOS meeting is scheduled for October 13 & 14.

4.6. PSSC Liaison Report

The Private Sewage Sub-Council met June 13. It was reported that Alberta Health Services has moved away from a regulatory role for water reuse, which is now regulated through municipal bylaws, and Alberta Health Services will provide support to municipalities to do so.

4.7. Administrator/AMA Report

A report was posted in the Portal and the Administrator reported on the following:

- 2020 code adoption, including updating STANDATA.
- Water reuse development.
- Certified equipment consistency across jurisdictions and in code.
- Plumbing code training: CSA is now providing some educational materials, such as an Inspector's Guide to Product Approval booklet.
- Possible code revisions for backwater valves and site variances.
- Topics that will likely be seen in the NPC 2025 public consultation, such as: barrier-free alignment (for example, if lever faucet handles are allowed for accessibility reasons, the plumbing code would not require an automatic faucet); toilet sizing; alterations for existing buildings; terminology; condensate.
- The Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes has replaced the previous committees that oversaw national code development.

4.8. Canadian Regulatory Committee on Plumbing (CRCP)/Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing (CACP) Report

A report was posted in the Portal and the Administrator reported highlights from these meetings. The CRCP consists of senior regulators from all provinces and territories. This group also sits with the CACP, which is an open session and includes representatives from standard development organizations, inspection bodies, and other industry groups. Highlights included:

- Whole house air admittance valves—these may be done under a site-specific variance, but more investigation must be done before a province-wide variance or code change could be made.
- Challenges related to food trucks and tiny homes.
- NPC 2020 – an editorial change in the NPC 2020 was inadvertently made which fundamentally changed the requirements for backwater valves. A white report was written, and a group of industry and regulators met with NRC to explain the impact of the change. An erratum to the NPC 2020 may be issued to correct this item. If the correction comes as a 2025 code change rather than erratum, the Administrator plans to issue a variance. This will be brought to the AMOS meeting and Council Summit for awareness.
- Legionella – there's demand to lower the temperature on electric water heaters to save energy, but the code states that they must be kept at 60 C to control legionella. Research shows that the temperature can cycle between 60 C and cooler temperatures and still be safe.
- Health Canada update —plastics that can disrupt human hormones; heavy metals; drinking water requirements.
- Reference Standards effective dates: there's a multi-discipline conversation to standardize the effective date for reference standards.
- Water reuse continues to be a national topic—the Alberta Health guidelines follow the best standards in water reuse and are thought to be the best in Canada.

4.9. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on:

- Member Training will be held on Wednesday, November 8, via Zoom. Please contact Gerry Letendre to register.

- The Council Member satisfaction survey will be sent out this fall in conjunction with the Council's annual stakeholder survey. Individuals who fill multiple roles in the safety codes system (ex. Sub-council member and SCO) will receive questions related to all their roles. Please watch your email and take a few moments to complete the survey when you receive it.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- A backflow prevention product endorsed by a popular television builder doesn't meet the requirements of the NPC. It does meet a CSA standard, but that standard is not referenced in the NPC.

5.2. Next Meeting

A poll will be sent to determine the date of a virtual meeting in approximately 6 weeks. The next regularly scheduled meeting was reconfirmed for February 27, 2023 via videoconference at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Shawn Van Velzen moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.2. Cisterns – Scope of the Plumbing Code

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– MOTIONS –

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– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
NPC 2025	<u>Stephen Laurie</u> Joe Howdle, Al Steenbergen, Paul Fullam